

Application Serial No. 10/030,747
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-2717

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated February 3, 2006, the Examiner states that Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending, and Claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dugan et al. (US 6,330,079). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dugan in view of Joyce et al. (US 2004,0077334). The Applicant considers that the amendment to independent Claim 1 overcomes the rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of "the system includes means for determining whether the caller is a client or a visitor to the client account and, if the caller is determined to be a visitor, the second communications link may be used by the visitor to attempt to connect the visitor to one of a limited number of addresses pre-selected by the client".

Support for the limitations to the claims can be found at page 8 line 24 where it is explained that a caller provides security information to the system to determine the user type, for example if the caller is a client owning the account or a visitor to the client account. Further, at page 13 line 31 it is explained how a visitor to the account may make a connection to extensions external to the network, these extensions being pre-selected by the client who owns the account.

In one example of a use for the system, a client owning a client account can configure the account to allow access to certain visitors. The client may be a parent, for instance, and might set up their account so that their young daughter (visitor) has access to the account as a visitor. The parent can pre-select certain addresses that their daughter is authorized to be connected to when calling into the system. These might be the contact numbers of the parent such as mobile number, work number and home number. The daughter can then make a single call into the system and can elect to attempt to reach her parent at one of the addresses pre-selected by the parent. If the attempt to reach the parent on one of the contact numbers is unsuccessful then the second link between the system and the attempt to contact the parent is terminated and the first communication's link being the link between the daughter and the system is maintained. The daughter is returned to the IVR voice menu and can elect to try another contact number preselected by the parent in a

Application Serial No. 10/030,747
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-2717

second attempt to reach the parent.

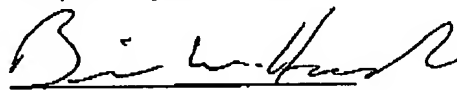
Multiple connection attempts can be made during a single call by the daughter. Thus, the daughter need only pay for a single phone call but can make numerous attempts to reach her parent. In an emergency situation this could be particularly important as the young daughter could be at a payphone and may have only enough money to make one call. Further, by pre-selecting the extensions available to the daughter, the parent has a degree of control over the daughter's use of the telephone system.

In Dugan at col.15, line 54 it is explained how a guest caller may leave their automatic number identification (ANI) so that the owner of the client account can later call them back. Dugan does not provide that guest callers can make outgoing calls from the system.

The concept of preselecting a limited number of addresses that may be accessed by visitors calling the system is not disclosed or suggested by Dugan or any of the other references cited. Therefore, the Applicant considers the rejections to the claims overcome by the amendment.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Brian W. Hameder
c/o Ladas & Parry LLP
224 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 427-1300
Reg. No. 45613

March 31, 2006

Date